



OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR BECKY SKILLMAN

What They're Saying...

Lt. Governor Skillman's local government proposals

Earlier this month, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman [released a report](#) that outlines her recommendations for changes at the local government level. She formed the recommendations while traveling the state to meet with the elected leadership in our cities, towns, and counties. Here's what editorial boards around the state are saying about the plan:

Richmond Palladium-Item – January 8, 2012

We were, for the most part, heartened by release the other day of the more moderate, common sense legislative proposals put forth recently by Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman after her extensive touring and discussions with local government officials....If local government officials are serious and sincere in their professed interest to improve efficiency and serve constituents, these initiatives would seem to represent modest moves in that direction, moves that deserve strong and immediate bipartisan support.

Northwest Indiana Times – January 9, 2012

The township reforms Skillman proposes whittle away at township government rather than abolishing it completely as the Kernan-Shepard report proposes. Still, they are steps in the right direction. The idea of giving voters the power to opt for higher taxes makes sense, too. They're adults; let them decide for themselves. These elements of Skillman's recommendations, at least, are worth considering by the Indiana General Assembly this year.

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette – January 5, 2012

Skillman's package is far short of the vast changes the Kernan-Shepard report recommended. But that package is more realistic politically and rightly would give local governments more options and flexibility in handling finances.

Indianapolis Star – January 16, 2012

Becky Skillman, Indiana's lieutenant governor, has issued a report filled with common-sense proposals that would help local governments operate with better efficiency, at lower cost and with more flexibility to meet residents' needs.

Post-Tribune (Merrillville/Gary) – January 11, 2012

Perhaps Skillman's proposal will get things moving in a direction that makes the township structure more reasonable.

Lafayette Journal and Courier – January 9, 2012

What Skillman proposes builds off the government streamlining efforts explored in a 2007 study done by the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform....The list, lost in the early shuffle of the session, provides a decent next step on reforms that need to happen.